TL3096

East Timor Human Rights Centre

URGENT ACTION

18 October 1996

NAME: Ildefonso de Deus dos Santos (also known as "Maudino")

VIOLATIONS: "Disappearance" / suspected extra-judicial execution or arbitrary arrest

LOCATION: Gleno, Ermera District

Ref: UA 9/96 Further information: UA6 /96 UA8/96

The East Timor Human Rights Centre holds grave fears for the safety of Ildefonso de Deus dos Santos (also known as "Maudino"), a 17 year old student who disappeared on 14 July in Gleno in the Ermera district of East Timor.

At around 10.00pm there was a fire at the Gleno market, following which soldiers carried out house to house raids, searching for those responsible for the fire. The ETHRC has already reported that 15 East Timorese were arrested after being accused of burning down the market and also burning the houses of Sulawesi immigrants (see UA 6/96).

At 11.00pm, Maudino left his house in Gleno to go to a nearby shop, but was immediately grabbed by a group of soldiers who were waiting in the darkness. An eye-witness reported that the soldiers were dressed in "Ninja" style clothing and that Maudino's limp body was taken away in a military jeep. Blood was found on the road and his family therefore fears he may have been stabbed and tortured. "Ninjas" are roving gangs of masked or hooded men, hired by the Indonesian military to intimidate independence supporters, often conducting night-time raids on their homes.

The day after Maudino disappeared, enquiries were made by the Regent (Bupati) to the Commander of the Ermera District Military Command, however, the Commander replied that there had been no warrant issued for Maudino's arrest.

Maudino's whereabouts is still unknown, however, the ETHRC believes that the Indonesian military is responsible for his disappearance and that he has either been killed or arbitrarily detained. His family has appealed to the international community to act immediately to locate him or obtain information about his fate.

East Timor Human Rights Centre Inc.
124 Napier Street, Fitzroy 3065. PO Box 1413, Collingwood 3066, Australia.
Telephone: +61 03 9415 8225 Fax: +61 03 9416 2746 E-mail: etchrmel@peg.apc.org
Chair: Bishop Hilton Deakin Director: Ms Maria Brett

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Please send faxes/telegrams/express/airmail letters in English, Bahasa Indonesia or your own language:

- seeking clarification of the Maudino's whereabouts;
- if Maudino is detained, seeking clarification of the charges (if any) against him, calling for his immediate and unconditional release if he has not been charged with a recognisable offence under existing laws;
- if he is not in detention, urging the authorities to hold an immediate inquiry into the circumstances surrounding his disappearance and to determine his current whereabouts.

SEND APPEALS TO:

1. MILITARY COMMANDER REGION IX/UDAYANA (includes East Timor)
   Maj Gen H.A. Rivai
   Pangdam IX/Udayana
   Markas Besar KODAM IX/Udayana
   Denpasar, Bali
   INDONESIA
   Telephone: +62 361 228 095
   Telegrams: Pangdam IX/Udayana, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia

2. CHIEF OF POLICE FOR EAST TIMOR
   Colonel Yusuf Muharram
   Kapolda Timor Timur
   Dili, East Timor
   INDONESIA
   Telegrams: Kapolda, Dili, East Timor

ALSO SEND COPIES TO:

3. MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
   Ali Alatas S.H.
   Menteri Luar Negeri
   Jl. Medan Taman Pejambon No. 6
   Jakarta
   INDONESIA
   Faxes: +62 21 360 541 / 360 517 / 380 5511 / 345 7782

4. SECRETARY GENERAL, NATIONAL COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
   Prof. Dr. Baharuddin Lopa
   Sekretaris Jenderal, Komisi Nasional Hak Azasi Manusia (Komnas HAM)
   Jl Pemuda No.104
   Rawamangun
   Jakarta Timur
   INDONESIA
   Faxes: +62 21 470 0775

and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY

Check with the East Timor Human Rights Centre if sending appeals after 29 November 1996.